

# 2005 Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005)

## Okanogan Conservation District



### Most Significant Natural Resource Accomplishment

- *Beaver Creek irrigation diversion improvement was completed and opened up an additional 8 miles of stream for steelhead, Chinook and bull trout. This is the final of five irrigation diversion improvements on Beaver Creek which opens up a total of approximately 17 stream miles of fish habitat.*



Rock Weirs on Beaver Creek

### Mission of the Okanogan Conservation District

- *To foster and support the conservation of renewable resources in Okanogan County...enhancing both their productivity and sustainability through the voluntary application of technically feasible and economically viable Best Management Practices (BMPs).*

### Natural Resource Improvements in 2005 - Summary

- *2 irrigation diversions were improved opening up 10.5 miles of fish habitat.*
- *Reconstructed 4,710 feet of streambank, 23,011 plants installed, 1.15 miles of fencing installed, and one alternative livestock water system provided to exclude 812 head of cattle from streams.*
- *105,220 plants were sold for various projects including wildfire reforestation of 700 acres.*
- *Resource Management System plans were provided to 4 cooperators managing 64 acres.*
- *Irrigation water management tools and plans were provided to 48 cooperators managing 1,400 acres.*
- *Orchard chipping cost share was provided to 6 cooperators managing 109 acres.*
- *552 water temperature samples at 23 sites in the Okanogan River and Methow River watersheds.*
- *Installed 2,040 feet of irrigation water pipe.*
- *Marketing and outreach activities were done reaching 3,929 people.*
- *Assisted Ecology with the Okanogan DDT & PCB TMDL and the Similkameen River Arsenic TMDL.*

### Water Quality Implementation

- *On a .5 mile of stream, reconstructed streambanks, installed fencing and 22,000 plants. This excluded approximately 600 head of cattle from the Sinlahekin Creek and was done in partnership with the Upper Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group, NRCS, and WDFW.*
- *Moved a corral away from the Methow River and installed 686 feet of fencing moving 12 head of cattle.*
- *Installed 2,040 feet irrigation water pipe to move it below 100 head cattle corral on the Methow River.*
- *Installed water system for livestock effectively removing 100 head of cattle's access to Beaver Creek.*
- *Reconstructed 750' streambank, installed 1,500' fencing and 251 plants on Okanogan River excluding 50 head of cattle.*
- *3,298 people were reached through marketing/outreach activities including the Okanogan County Fair, Regional Envirothon, State Envirothon, Sixth-Grade Camps, and other various activities.*

### Water Quality

- *Performed 240 water temperature samples in the Methow River watershed at 10 sites utilizing Bureau of Reclamation funding. This data is shared by Department of Ecology.*
- *Captured the water temperature data recorded by data loggers at 13 sites for a total of 312 readings in the Okanogan River watershed. This project is funded by Department of Ecology and done in partnership with the Okanogan County.*

### Basic Funding

- *Complete the Annual Report of Accomplishments, Annual Plan of Work, Annual Financial Report, Annual Budget, Annual Meeting, Annual Elections/Appointment activities, Internal Audit, and Basic Funding Report (this funding does not cover all of these expenses; additional funding is required to perform these tasks).*
- *Provided plants for various projects (some listed in this report) including a 700 acre wildfire reforestation effort. There were a total of 111 customers and 105,220 plants sold.*

- Reached 300 people through marketing/outreach activities.

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### **Irrigation Water Management**

- Irrigation water management tools and plans were provided to 48 cooperators covering 1,400 acres. These projects were funded by the Department of Ecology and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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### **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

- No new projects, but maintenance of existing projects was necessary.

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### **Livestock**

- Staff worked on the WACD Livestock Task Force which obtained \$2.5 million in cost share assistance and \$1.6 million in technical assistance to be provided to animal feeding operations statewide.
- Funding through the Commission was utilized to train two staff in animal feeding operation issues and regulations.
- Staff gave presentations at 4 local and 3 state Cattlemens meetings – approximately 220 attendees.
- WSU Natural Resources Sciences Dept. provided funding to install a .25 mile jimmy jam fence along US Forest Service permitted land to exclude approximately 50 head of cattle from bull trout habitat.

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### **Irrigation Efficiencies**

- No new projects as the projects identified were not on qualified streams.

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### **Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration**

- Completed a risk assessment including prioritization of hazardous forest fuels throughout Okanogan County. This project was through the Title II process funded by the US Forest Service.
- An irrigation diversion was relocated and reconstructed to allow an additional 2.5 mile steelhead access on Black Canyon Creek. This project was funded by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.
- Reconstructed a .25 mile streambank at the mouth of an irrigation diversion on the Methow River and installed 760 plants with temporary irrigation to restore wildlife habitat and reduce sediment delivery. This project was funded by Bonneville Power Administration.

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### **Small Farm Programs**

- Resource Management System plans were provided to 4 cooperators covering 64 acres.
- Cost share was provided to 6 cooperators on 109 acres for chipping downed orchards in lieu of burning through the Department of Ecology Air Quality program.

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### **Community Collaboration & Coordination**

- A Department of Ecology three year grant was completed which updated the action items within the Okanogan Watershed Water Quality Management Plan through a stakeholders group and updates with the various agencies and organizations in the watershed. This group also assisted with the Okanogan River DDT & PCD TMDL and the Similkameen River Arsenic TMDL.
- A stakeholders group of 27 entities was created to address 2514 funded Okanogan River watershed planning Phase I: defined plan parameters and identified the optional elements that would be included.
- A local landowner group previously formed under the Coordinated Resource Management process continued to work with the Bureau of Reclamation, US Forest Service, WDFW & Department of Ecology to address natural resource issues within the Beaver and Fraser Creeks area.

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### **Marketing/Outreach & Education**

- Marketing and Outreach efforts have been identified in their appropriate categories.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

Corrals moved away from stream

